

THE

BRIEF

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An electronic update for the legal community providing a brief look at news in the Clerk of the Superior Court's Office



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Clerk of the Superior Court

Case Initiation

The Administrative Office of the Courts is expected to deploy electronic case initiation in Superior Court through AZTurboCourt this year, which will allow a case to begin with an electronic filing rather than paper and to stay electronic throughout the case. Electronic case initiation has begun in the Supreme Court and in the Court of Appeals, Division One.

eFiling Upgrades

The Clerk's Office will release a new version of its eFiling and case management system in 2012. While most of the changes will be internal, the resulting improvements in speed and efficiency will be apparent to court users. eFiling through the Clerk's system will still be available in criminal cases, limited family court cases and in the tax court until those case types transition to the AZTurboCourt system.

Office Moves

For services at physical locations, the Clerk's Office will experience several moves throughout 2012. The Clerk's criminal exhibits space is consolidating into the new South Court Tower in downtown Phoenix. Criminal exhibits filed at the regional court centers will be available at those locations until the case concludes, at which time they will be transferred to the South Court Tower. Civil exhibits will continue to be stored at the Customer Service Center in downtown Phoenix.

As part of the county's capital improvement budget for FY 2011-12, the Clerk of the Court's office, located in the Central and West Court buildings, in downtown Phoenix will be remodeled. This will include consolidating the family and civil file counters into one location. Construction will take place throughout 2012, with minimal disruption to the public. Upon completion of the remodel, the Clerk's Office will use a queuing system to improve customer service times and eliminate the need to stand in line while waiting to be served.

Access to Records

Every year there are proposals to change Arizona's laws and court rules that ultimately impact Clerk operations, which then impacts access to records for customers. The Clerk's Office will monitor and implement those changes as they are finalized. The populations currently under review by interest groups that would impact court record management are victims, minors and vulnerable adults. Access to records or information may change, depending on this year's legislation and court rules.

The state's financial situation is one unknown factor about what can be accomplished in 2012. Maricopa County's revenues are currently budgeted to maintain existing services. Changes to state funding or services that counties could be required to provide could also impact services at the county level.

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